

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
DRAFT
March 30, 2001**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to document broad endorsement by the signatories of the decisions and recommendations made by the San Joaquin River Management Program Advisory Council and their commitment to support the program goals and principles (Attachment A). The San Joaquin River Management Program will provide a regional vision for the San Joaquin River watershed and a forum for review of actions proposed within the watershed. This forum will enhance communication among agencies and interests along the river. The SJRMP will serve as a liaison between landowners, environmental groups, conservationists and local, state and federal agencies. The SJRMP will assist with conflict resolution, and will facilitate timely distribution of information regarding funding opportunities, permitting and regulations. This MOU is designed to allow signatories to be added over time.

Background

Since its origins in 1990, the San Joaquin River Management Program has had legislative authorization under three separate bills AB 3603, AB 3048 and SB 807. The original authorization mandated that all decisions be made by consensus and specifically authorized an Advisory Council and an Action Team each made up of a number of State and Federal agencies, representatives from counties and cities; water user interests; and environmental, fisheries, and wildlife groups. This legislation also required development of a plan, which was completed in 1995, to address six specific problem areas in the San Joaquin Basin; flood protection, water supply, water quality, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife. SJRMP is now poised to move forward under this MOU to provide a regional forum in the San Joaquin Basin for local agencies, environmental groups; agriculture, business, industry, recreation and other interests and landowners to work directly with State and Federal agencies to develop ideas and to meet challenges.

Roles/Activities

- Provide a regional forum to enhance communication among agencies and interests along the river in the San Joaquin Basin and to develop ideas and to meet challenges.
- Maximize coordination and consistency of policies and programs with the 1995 Plan and CALFED.
- Assist local project proponents in identifying and obtaining funding for implementation of activities supported by SJRMP.
- Appropriate signatories will participate in the Advisory Council, Action Team and subcommittees as needed.
- Catalog what has been accomplished and the status of projects and programs.
- Establish and maintain a library of relevant documents.
- Provide access to permitting and technical assistance for local project proponents.
- Provide balanced SJR Basin education and information.
- Promote dissemination and generation of new and accurate scientific data.

General Agreements

- We endorse the goals of the 1995 Plan and expansion of the vision laid out in this plan.
- We agree to the SJRMP goals, principles and actions.
- We agree to maximize coordination and consistency of the programs and policies of our agencies with the goals and objectives of SJRMP.

Signatories

Support for this MOU will be solicited and welcomed from all government and private agencies, programs, organizations, individuals and landowners having a committed interest in the protection of the San Joaquin Basin. After signing the MOU, each participant will appoint representatives to the Advisory Council and Action Team. One representative can serve on both the Council and the Action Team.